

Application Serial No.: 10/663,759
Reply to Office Action dated August 29, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 15-19. These sheets, which include Figs. 15-19, replace the original sheets including Figs. 15-19.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-48 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 7, 21, 25, and 31 having been amended by way of the present Amendment. Claims 18-22, 23/28-22, 24/23/18-22, 42-46, 47/42-46, and 48/47/42-46 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to for minor informalities. Submitted concurrently herewith are a Replacement Sheets which include the suggested changes to Figures 15-19 to address the objections. Accordingly, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Claim 21 was objected to for a minor informality. Accordingly, Claim 21 has been amended as suggested. Thus, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the objection to Claim 21.

Claims 7 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Official Action indicates that it is unclear how a direction can be quantitatively “equal.” Accordingly, Claims 7 and 31 have been amended to recite that the directions are “identical,” which the Applicant submits is clear and definite. Accordingly, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection.

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11-14, 16, 23-27, 30, 31, 35-38, 40, 47, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naiki (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,133). Claims 4, 9, 28, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naiki in view of

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Watanabe (JP 9-186395). Claims 5, 8, 10, 17, 29, 32, 34, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naiki in view of Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,621,512). Claims 15 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naiki in view of Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,315,609). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicant traverses the obviousness rejection.

The basic requirements for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness as set forth in MPEP 2143 include (1) there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings, (2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and (3) the reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. The Applicant submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established in the present case because the reference does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a light source unit comprising a plurality of light sources, a plurality of coupling lenses, a coupling lens holding unit having a first and a second holding faces aligned approximately in parallel to an optical axis of a first coupling lens of the plurality of coupling lenses, and an elastically pressing member pressing a side portion of the first coupling lens against the first and the second holding faces while the first coupling lens is directly contacted with the first and the second holding faces so as to thereby hold the first coupling lens. Claim 25 recites a light source unit comprising a plurality of light source means, a plurality of coupling lens means, a coupling lens holding means having a first and a second holding face means aligned approximately in parallel to an optical axis of

a first coupling lens means of the plurality of coupling lens means, and an elastically pressing means for pressing a side portion of the first coupling lens means against the first and the second holding face means while the first coupling lens is directly contacted with the first and the second holding face means so as to hold the first coupling lens means. The Applicant submits that the Naiki reference does not disclose or suggest all of the above limitations.

The Naiki reference describes a light source device that has a semiconductor laser element, a collimator lens, a lens barrel for holding the collimator lens, first and second lens barrel support member and a laser support member. The Official Action refers to the embodiment depicted in Figure 9. In Figure 9, light source device A includes a semiconductor laser element 1, collimator lens 2, laser support member 101 for supporting semiconductor laser element 1, lens barrel 104 for installing collimator lens 2, first and second barrel support members 102 and 103 for supporting lens barrel 104.

Laser support member 101 is mounted on first lens barrel support member 102 at a surface 105 which is perpendicular to optical axis 108 of the collimator lens 2 using screws 106a. Lens barrel 104 is sandwiched between channel 103a of second lens barrel support member 103 and V-shaped channel 102a of first lens barrel support member 102 so as to be positionally adjustable in the direction of optical axis 108 of the collimator lens 2 by mounting second lens barrel support member 103 on first lens barrel support 102 using screws 106b. After initial adjustment of the distance between semiconductor laser element 1 and collimator lens 2, lens barrel 104 is fixedly attached to first and second lens barrel support members 102 and 103 by tightening screws 107.

The Applicant notes that the lens barrel support member 103 does not press a side portion of the collimator lens 2 against faces of the V-shaped channel 102a while the collimator lens 2 is *directly contacted with* the faces of the V-shaped channel 102a. Instead, in the Naiki reference, the collimator lens 2 is provided within a lens barrel 104 that prevents the support member 103 from directly contacting the lens 2 and prevents the V-shaped channel 102a from directly contacting the lens 2. Thus, clearly the Naiki reference fails to disclose or even suggest an elastically pressing member pressing a side portion of the first coupling lens against the first and the second holding faces while the first coupling lens is directly contacted with the first and said second holding faces so as to thereby hold the first coupling lens, as recited in Claim 1, and similarly recited in Claim 25. The present invention advantageously provides a configuration in which the pressing member presses a side portion of the first coupling lens against and in direct contact with the first and the second holding faces, whereby intermediary material is not necessary which can cause misalignment of the coupling lens for the many reasons described in the Background section of the present application.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of independent Claims 1 and 25.

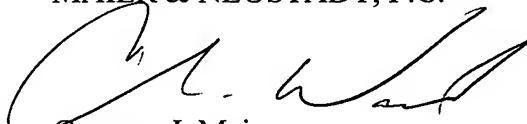
Claims 2-17, 23, 24, 26-41, 47, and 48 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for the independent claim from which they respectively depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of their respective independent claim.

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Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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